

Message Text

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47

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 XMB-07 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8500

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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DEPT PASS EXIM, BARBER/ EA AND LAKKAS/ E

USDOC PASS VAN GESSEL

HONG KONG PASS RAND, EXIM

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, TW

SUBJECT: US TRADE PROMOTION CENTER

REFERENCE: TAIPEI 5800, NOVEMBER 24, 1972

1. SENIOR OFFICIALS IN GRC HAVE RECENTLY REITERATED AN INTEREST IN HAVING A US TRADE PROMOTION CENTER ON TAIWAN. VICE MINISTER ECONOMIC AFFAIRS K. S. CHANG AND DIRECTOR BOARD OF FOREIGN TRADE (BOFT) Y. T. WONG HAVE BOTH EMPHASIZED WILLINGNESS OF GRC TO ACCOMODATE US REQUIREMENTS IF TRADE CENTER CAN BE ESTABLISHED HERE.

2. SPECIFICALLY Y. T. WONG ADVISED ECONCOUNS EARLY THIS WEEK THAT:

A) GRC WOULD BE WILLING TO HAVE CENTER ESTABLISHED HERE ON TRIAL BASIS (E. G. FOR 3 YEAR PERIOD) WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT, IF CENTER SHOULD PROVE DISAPPOINTING
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TO USG AS EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PROMOTING US EXPORTS, IT COULD BE WITHDRAWN WITH NO RECRIMINATION FROM GRC. WONG AND OTHERS HOWEVER ARE CONFIDENT THAT CENTER CAN PROVE ITSELF AS MEANS OF PROMOTING SALES OF US PRODUCTS.

B) GRC WILL GIVE FULL COOPERATION IN HELPING USG TO LOCATE ACCEPTABLE SITE AND ADEQUATE FLOOR SPACE AND WOULD ALSO SEEKS TO ACCOMODATE TAIPEI AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WHICH HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING OFFICES IN SAME BUILDING.

C) AS TOKEN OF ROC INTEREST IN ASSISTING US IN THIS VENTURE WONG ASSURED ECONCOUNS THAT THE GRC WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE US\$10,000 A YEAR IN LOCAL CURRENCY TO HELP MEET THE EXPENSES OF THE CENTER.

D) GOVERNMENT WOULD INSURE PROCEDURES TO FACILITATE MOVEMENT OF DISPLAY ITEMS THROUGH CUSTOMS IN WAY WHICH WOULD OBVIATE PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTY UNLESS OF COURSE ITEMS ARE EVENTUALLY SOLD ON ISLAND.

3. REFTEL OUTLINED WHAT WE BELIEVE IS STRONG CASE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER ON TAIWAN AND RECENT EVENTS, INCLUDING Y. T. WONG' S BUYING MISSION IN THE US, CONVINCE US OF SINCERITY OF GRC' S EFFORTS TO ASSIST IN INCREASING US SALES HERE AND IN HOLDING DOWN SIZE OF OUR TRADE DEFICIT WITH ROC.

MCCONAUGHY

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